Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA (Minister for Public Works and Electricity).—

(*a*) No. The Scheme contemplates both construction of rural roads and improvements to exisiting rural roads.

(*b*) Under R.C. Programme	...	64.20
Rural Employment	...	10.00
		(in K.ms.)

(*c*) As 80 K.ms. per Taluka under R.C. Programme is only an average per Taluka and there is no minimum mileage fixed, the question of shortfall in this Taluka does not arise.

Upper Bhima Irrigation Project in Afzalpur Taluk

495. Sri D. B. KALMANKAR (Afzalpur).—

Will the Minister of State for Major Irrigation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the stage at which the Upper Bhima Irrigation Project in Afzalpur Taluk of Gulbarga District is pending ;

(*b*) the estimated cost of the Project and the area likely to be irrigated and the names of taluks that will benefit ;

(*c*) whether the Government proposes to take up the said Project at the earliest in view of the acute drought recurring in that area ?

Sri H. N. NANJE GOWDA (Minister of State for Major Irrigation).-

(*a*) and (*b*) Project is under investigation.

(*c*) This is a Major Project and can be taken up after it is finalised and approved.

Barrage-*Cum*-Bridge on Manjra River at Saigaon

587. Sri BAPURAO ANAND RAO (Basavakalyan).—

Will the Minister for Public Works and Electricity of pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether all the State M. L. As., M. L. Cs. and M. Ps. have represented to the Government to take up the barrage-*cum*-bridge on the Manjra River at Saigaon in Bhalki Taluka of Bidar District;

(SRI BAPU RAO ANANDA RAO)

(*b*) if so, whether survey work has been completed and estimates prepared ;

(*c*) the steps taken by the Government to sanction the work immediately ?

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA (Minister for Public Works and Electricity).—

(*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) Does not arise in view of the reply to clause (*a*).

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

re : Acute Scarcity of Drinking Water in Villages of Shiggaon, Savanur and Hangal Taluks.

Sri M. M. NADAF (Shiggaon).—Sir, I call the attention of the Minister for Community Development and Social Welfare to the acute scarcity of drinking water in Villages of Shiggaon, Savanur and Hangal Taluks.

Sri M. MALLIKARJUNA SWAMY (Minister for Community Development and Social Welfare).—Sir, in reply to the Call attention Notice I wish to make the following statement :—

It is not a fact that the villagers have started leaving their villages for want of drinking water. No such instances have come to the notice of Government. There are some villages where the people have to fetch drinking water from a distance of one to two miles. The Tahsildars have been instructed to supply drinking water by engaging bulluck carts in such villages. It is a fact that the cartmen are demanding exhorbitant rates for supply of drinking water in the town area. The Deputy Commissioner, Dharwar has been instructed to arrange supply of water in cooperation with the local body concerned to over-come such difficulty being faced by the people.

The following measures have also been taken in each of the three taluks :—

(1) Shiggaon Taluk. Deepening of drinking water wells in 10 villages has already been sanctioned under 64 Famine and instructions have been issued by the Deputy Commissioner to take up the works on priority basis. Rs. 5,000 has been released as initial grants. National Rural Water Supply and